

Tomiko Gumbleton - Written Testimony

From: "Maryann Andrecovich" <ANDRECOV@wcskids.net>
To: <tgumbleton@house.mi.gov>
Date: 4/25/2011 4:25 PM
Subject: Written Testimony

PLEASE HEAR US!

I am a teacher who has been working for 35 years. I would love to retire but my husband has not been working for the last 10 years. I have 4 kids, 3 in college and another on going next year. As a result, I am in debt up to my ears and close to losing my home. I cannot afford a single penny being taken from my pay check. My family depends on my salary to pay the bills for our home, that has lost so much value, to pay for college loans to help my children with their education, and to help with rising medical bills because my husband is a fragile diabetic.

I AM VERY WORRIED ABOUT OUR FUTURE!

Please do whatever you can to stop the mayhem in Lansing. Teachers have become a truly disrespected occupation even though we have educated everyone. How did this happen?

I love my job and I care deeply for the severely impaired students I have dedicated my life to for the last 35 years. I want to continue working to help pay off my mortgage because I have not been able to get assistance from the banks. My oldest daughter graduated recently and is working in Burkina Faso, Africa with the Peace Corps. There is no money coming in from her to help with bills. My son is working on his degree but will need a master's and job experience to get work in his field. I feel burdened with so much now and I can't imagine being burdened with more cuts for me as a teacher.

Please help!

Mary Ann Andrecovich
CMI teacher
Cousino High School
Warren Consolidated Schools
Work Phone: (586) 574-3100, ext 12033
email: andrecof@mail.k12.mi.us

Tomiko Gumbleton - WRITTEN TESTIMONY

From: Lorin and Julie <lwright35@yahoo.com>
To: <tgumbleton@house.mi.gov>
Date: 4/25/2011 7:16 PM
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Good evening,

I'm writing to inform Representative Lipton how the cuts to education will effect my classroom and my family. There is a School Board meeting tonight so I can assure you that there will be more cuts made in anticipation of lower per pupil funding thus effecting my classroom and family even more.

Students are already seeing the effects of these cuts with next year's class scheduling. I have been told that if a class doesn't have at least 25 students then it will not be offered in the 2011-12 school year. There are not enough students enrolled in Spanish IV next year - so that class will not run. There are not enough students enrolled in AP Spanish next year - so that class will not run. The two classes can be combined but this will effect the quality of education and the AP students will not be prepared to take the AP Language exam.

Last year, a contract extension was ratified by our Education Association. By ratifying the extension, I was giving up a step increase of \$10,000. On top of that I am now paying 3% of my retirement. I have already made sacrifices to help my school district balance their budget.

With the proposed cuts to teacher salary while paying for part of my family insurance, potentially I will be making another \$10,000 less. As gas prices increase and add increases to other products, my family has opted not to make some home improvements. So there is at least an extra \$15,000 that won't be spent in the local economy as we would have hired this work with a contractor.

Another way that this effects my family is that my husband is a support staff employee for a university. He is directly effected by cuts made to higher education as he is a non-union employee and he is the one that feels the pain of university cuts. However, the proposed MI budget pits K-12 against K-16 education. How does one attract businesses and working people to our state? By making education WORK in our state.

Thank you for your time,
Julie Wright
3342 Aquinas
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
586-202-0255

Tomiko Gumbleton - Written Testimony

From: Judy DuPont <judy.dupont@gmail.com>
To: <tgumbleton@house.mi.gov>
Date: 4/25/2011 9:25 PM
Subject: Written Testimony

Good Evening,

My name is Judy DuPont. I am a second grade teacher at Green Acres Elementary in the Warren Consolidated School District. First of all I would like to share a story of hope. Some 25 years ago, I was enrolled in a Master's Degree program at Wayne State University. A very inspirational professor told us a story about his involvement with education. Early on in his career, he received a request from the State Department of Education. He was asked to undertake a journey to a Third World country (whose name I can no longer recall). His goal was to assist in establishing an educational system and the building of schools, which he accepted.

When he arrived he was met with indescribable and deplorable conditions. He was truly taken aback by what he encountered. One day, he was standing in a makeshift tent with a mother who was trying to comfort a seriously ill child. She was also holding an emaciated child in her arms. She asked the professor, if he would please hold her baby so that she could better attend to her sick child in the bed. He accepted the baby from the mother and while standing there, the baby died in his arms. Needless to say, he was devastated.

Upon returning home to the United States, he immediately went to his state department and questioned the reasoning and/or logic behind sending him to such a god-forsaken place. These people are in desperate need of the most basic things necessary for survival. They had little food, no medicine, deplorable shelter and unsanitary water to drink. He asked "Why in God's name would you send me-an educator- to this place where not even their basic needs were being met? How could I possibly be of service to them? They have nothing!" Their answer to him has resonated within me throughout my 20 year teaching career..."Because education represents hope...and without hope, you truly have nothing". These parents just needed to believe that there was hope for a better future for their children.

This brings me to the point of this testimony. The impending bills in Congress taking aim at the K-12 school budget will undoubtedly destroy the educational system as we know it. If these cuts are allowed to go through, we are looking at HUGE classroom sizes and the cutting of needed resources. The increase in classroom sizes alone will force me to seriously modify or even abandon many of the "best practices" that have evolved over time in my classroom. (I.e. small skill groups, developmental reading clubs, learning centers, differentiated learning, etc.) We will be forced to placing students in rows, aiming for the middle and hoping for the best. Back in the 50's, these practices were acceptable, because we were preparing students for an "assembly line" mentality. It was what society needed and it worked. That is no longer true!! Our children are facing a future that looks far different. They must learn to think for themselves, be creative problem-solvers, and work cooperatively. Larger classroom sizes will virtually "eat" up the minutes of our educational day, just to handle the logistics let alone academics. I can't even imagine where we will physically put them. From where I sit, this will force the educational system to take giant steps backwards, instead of soaring into the future as we should be. Where is the hope for our families, who are not "third-world" but are also not wealthy? My final comment to Governor Snyder comes from one of my favorite movies "Mr. Holland's Opus""If this is your best...then your best isn't good enough!!"

Please keep hope alive for our children.

Thank you sincerely...Hugs!

Mrs. Judy L. DuPont

Tomiko Gumbleton - Written Testimony

From: "Rachel Guichard" <RGuichard@wcskids.net>
To: <tgumbleton@house.mi.gov>
Date: 4/26/2011 9:51 AM
Subject: Written Testimony

Dear Representative Cugin,

If these budget cuts happen, I will lose my job as an art teacher for Warren Consolidated Schools. I have four college degrees pertaining to teaching and art, and my entire college education will be a complete waste. I will not find another job, being at the bottom of the seniority list and only having two years experience. My family and I are already preparing to move to a less expensive home in anticipation I will be unemployed. My husband will also put his education on hold AGAIN as teaching is not any sort of stable job anymore. We will in all likelihood leave Michigan so we can both be employed. I would never dream of sending our children to a public school under these conditions, and my children will be attending private schools (or be home schooled). I love teaching and hate to see public education completely gutted from anything kids actually enjoy about school. Please help stop the gutting of public education!!!

Respectfully yours,

Rachel Guichard

Art Teacher
Holden and Susick Elementary
Warren Consolidated Schools
rquichard@wcskids.net

Tomiko Gumbleton - written testimony

From: "Marina Nestorovski" <Nestorov@wcskids.net>
To: <tgumbleton@house.mi.gov>
Date: 4/26/2011 8:43 AM
Subject: written testimony

Hello:

My name is Marina Nestorovski. I am a SINGLE mother of two little children-6 & 8. What is happening in education would be a disaster to my family. I just moved in my own home last year, before that I was living with my parents. My income would not be able to support my family and I would lose my house I just got. My children's future is also at stake. People think classrooms are a problem now. What will happen when there will be 40 students in a class. What kind of teaching would be done then? I cannot afford private school. I can go on and on. The end result, my family, job, and home would be greatly affected by what the governor is doing.

Thank You,
Marina Nestorovski

Hope this is enough

Tomiko Gumbleton - WRITTEN TESTIMONY

From: <aisthorpe1@comcast.net>
To: <tgumbleton@house.mi.gov>, <bradjacobsen@house.mi.gov>, <jimmarleau@sena...
Date: 4/25/2011 10:43 PM
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the proposed cuts to K-12 funding. I am a 3rd grade teacher and I can honestly say in my ten years that I have seen nothing improve in terms of quality of programs, resources, or technology in my school district (Utica). We used to offer foreign language instruction to elementary students, we used to have band and strings starting at grade 4, and we used to be up-to-date with our technology. Well, we axed foreign language, band is now only available to 6th graders, with no strings program to speak of, and our technology is old and in disrepair as the tech support staff has also been shown the door.

Expecting leaps in achievement without the funding is akin to trying to drive a race car without fuel.

As a proud educator, I believe quality of instruction is just about the only thing that has not deteriorated over the last decade. With these proposed cuts I am not sure I will be able to claim that any longer. Increased class sizes and further depletion of already outdated resources moves us farther away from our core goal of reaching all children with the best available tools.

Look, we count every piece of paper we use in our building. Schools have streamlined their processes greatly over the last few years, so stop kicking them when they're down. We have a word for that on the playground, it's called bullying.

Thanks,

Jeff Aisthorpe
Lake Orion Resident

April 26, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rosemarie Petty and I am strongly opposed to the budget cuts to education. I am a first grade teacher in the Warren Consolidated School District and I love my job. I feel absolutely blessed to have a job that is so rewarding and inspiring. I also work very hard at my job. I put in a lot of hours and make sure that my students receive a quality education. I also spend a lot of money to make sure my students have the things they need. The population in our school is very diverse, 80% of my students speak one or two other languages. Many of them never attended preschool and saw their first book written in English when they came to kindergarten. Many of them do not have a home "library" they don't even have a book to read at home. In my four years in first grade I have been buying and building my classroom library so that my students are able to take a reading book home with them every night. With the cuts I will no longer be able to build a library like this. The books that do not come back to my classroom will not be able to be replaced, and my students will not be able to read at home. Not only do I buy books, but many other things for my students. I try to give them as many experiences as I can and I am worried with the cuts to education I will not be able to give them the same experiences.

I am also concerned for my own children. I have a two year old daughter and a baby on the way who will both attend public schools, my husband and I do not make enough money to send them to a private school. I do not want to send my children to a classroom with 30 to 35 students in it. I know that as a teacher they are not getting the time or attention they need to learn and grow. I know that the teacher's job will be *managing* a group that big instead of *teaching* a group that big.

I am hopeful that our leaders will make the right choices for our youth and the future of our state. Please vote **not** to cut funds to education.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Petty

From: Amy Stowe <amystowe@me.com>
To: "tgumbleton@house.mi.gov" <tgumbleton@house.mi.gov>
Date: 4/26/2011 8:08 PM
Subject: Written testimony

To whom It May Concern,

It is unimaginable that the state is planning more cuts to our schools. We specifically moved to Utica so our kids could get the best educational around. Each year though, through no fault of the district, class sizes are increasing, programs are cut (band and foreign language), and technology is a joke. The schools can't even afford copy paper! We also now have pay to play sports! Schools CAN NOT handle any more cuts! Our kids deserve better and so does Michigan. Education is one of life's greatest gifts! Don't short our schools!

Sincerely,
The Stowe Family

From: "Stowejames@att.net" <stowejames@att.net>
To: "tgumbleton@house.mi.gov" <tgumbleton@house.mi.gov>
Date: 4/26/2011 8:35 PM
Subject: Written Testimony

I am a fourth grade student and I am learning about Michigan's government. I am disappointed and ashamed that you are taking money from our schools. I like using electronics at school and it is not possible for them to afford it, so we will have old computers and other electronics. our textbooks have not been updated because we can't afford it,so we have old maps that have Yugoslavia! Plus our classes our packed with about 30 kids. I think we deserve better.

Sincerely,
A very sad student- Riley

Tomiko Gumbleton - Written Testimony

From: Heather Webber <hwebber71@gmail.com>
To: <tgumbleton@house.mi.gov>
Date: 4/26/2011 11:02 PM
Subject: Written Testimony

Hello,

I understand that cuts need to be made, and that teachers have to sacrifice also, but I never thought I would witness this extreme breakdown of the entire educational system in my lifetime. Our district has already made so many cuts to remain fiscally sound, I can't imagine the impact of even more cuts to the education of our students. I work in one of the top districts in Michigan that pride themselves in the high academic standards that are expected of our students. We are so proud of where our students go in their future endeavors because of the curriculum and experiences we've been able to provide them throughout their education. With less money, there will have to be program cuts at the very least which will definitely negatively impact opportunities to our students. With less teachers, there will be more students in the classrooms, and there are already too many to give them the individualized assistance they need and deserve.

Currently, just the 3% that is being taken from my paycheck has put me over budget every month. We don't live extravagantly....house payment, car payment, and then the other everyday expenses in life (i.e. food, gas, insurance, taxes, etc.). Personally, if these proposed cuts happen, it would be about \$1,000 a month less income for my family. Unfortunately, because my husband was injured on the job, I have been the soul provider for my family for 8 out of the 10 years of our marriage. He isn't eligible for social security at this time, thus he receives no income. Just the stress of being the breadwinner for the family is overwhelming, but the thought of taking a cut of what essentially is our house payment (not including taxes and insurance), I don't know what will happen to us. I'm sure we are only one of thousands of people who could share the exact story.

I'm appalled that so much of the proposed legislation takes away so many of our constitutional rights as Americans (i.e. freedom of speech, etc.) . It feels like communism to me rather than a democracy. How can someone take away my degrees with one stroke of a pen because of a possible "thought of a work stoppage"! I worked hard for my degrees, paid about \$85,000 for them, and continue to have to maintain the degrees with more costs and schooling - if this isn't communism, I don't know what is communism. If the legislators don't come up with some more realistic compromises, they won't be reelected, but it probably won't matter because there won't be a Michigan anymore. I'm really scared that there will even be riots like in another countries the way things are going.

It is my prayer that all of the legislation is looked at with caution and appropriate comprises are made, so our students can continue to excel to be able to keep up with other states and nations, and that I can continue to provide shelter and food for my family.

Sincerely,
Heather

Dear Ellen Cogen Lipton

Some Politicians find it easy to criticize public education. Their selective amnesia allows them to forget that they have made public education what it is today. They created the "No Child Left Behind Law" and then forgot to vote to approve proper funding. But still hold the public education system accountable for meeting those standards. In Michigan, the public schools have been on track to meet those goals. The same goals that our elected officials in Lansing set for us using the MEAP as proof that we are meeting the "NO Child Left Behind" law. Now they say we set the bar too low so we need to raise the bar. They have forgotten that we will lose Federal funding if we do not meet those standards. So Mr. Snyder's plan for raising the bar may actually hurt Michigan even more. ... Politicians also like to compare us academically, using the National Standards Test. They have also forgotten that each state has their own standards. And most DO NOT align with the National Standards. Michigan has the MEAP, and they do not align with the National Standards. So our students are not being compared equally. (Apples to Apples) So the Politicians who have told the teachers what they need to teach, grade by grade, then say we are doing a poor job preparing them for a National Standards Test. Why yes we have, because we have been doing what they told us we had to do. Get them ready to pass the MEAP.

Teaching is a 12-month job. I am not complaining, I just want the public to know. Teachers work their scheduled, paid hours; but people do not always notice our full workload. Most teachers come in before or stay late most days, work their lunch 40 minute periods; take phone calls from parents at home, grade papers, prepare lesson plans, do curriculum work, formulate individual learning plans and interventions, read and analyze research on educational, health, and behavioral issues, and decide and plan for increasing student learning, mentor new teachers and teachers in training, do other required paperwork, such as reports and studies, plan units of study, prep materials for lessons, communicate with parents, principals, counselors, nurses in emails after school, pore through books, and online resources for best practices and inspiring(and cheap) lessons. They confer with other teachers for ideas and solutions. They make their time available for unpaid school events, unpaid family nights at school, unpaid teaching or coaching, parent teacher meetings, attending student events, committee planning, grant writing, volunteer in many community events benefiting children, donate time and sometimes money to students and their families. They comb through friends rummage sales, dollar stores and recycling stores for materials to use in teaching and just to have basic supplies, like books, paper, notebooks, pencils, crayons. They stop by grocery stores for graham crackers, water bottles, treats; mittens, socks, and often other things; toothbrushes, combs, coats, shoes, pants. From their own pocketbook. July is the month to search for the on-sale school supplies to buy- out of our own money, necessities for the classroom. There is the requirement for formal college courses to keep certificates, and Master's Degrees courses-- those run as much as \$800 per credit hour- and on a teacher's salary that means incurring even more student loans. And that usually means a summer job to keep up the payments. □ Some teachers work early before school-or late at school and some late at home. Much of our work nowadays is on computer and so you may not see some of them carry big bags of stuff home-just a flash drive or papers to study or to

The Honorable Lesia Liss
State Representative
PO Box 30014
Lansing MI 48909-7514

April 8, 2011

Dear Representative Liss:

My name is Lisa Hale and I am a parent in the Warren Consolidated School District. I am writing you today because I am counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the Governor's proposed \$470 per-pupil cut will create for Warren Consolidated Schools and our children. This cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil or about \$17 million for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That's a major DISINVESTMENT in education and it spells disaster for our kids.

The Governor believes that schools can save large amounts of money by cutting the cost of non-instructional services. As far as Warren Consolidated is concerned, that's a false assumption. The district has already cut these costs to the bare minimum. So an additional 10% won't make a dent in the \$17 million loss.

If the governor's current budget plan is enacted, our schools have no choice left except to make large program cuts and increase class sizes. These will definitely impact the educational lives of our students.

We cannot bring Michigan's economy back by lowering our investment in an educated workforce. The Governor's plan to reduce business taxes and use K-12 School Aid funds to support community colleges and universities is definitely not "shared sacrifice." Schools have already sacrificed a lot. Any more will fall directly on the backs of our children – they are the future of our state.

Sincerely,



Lisa Hale

~~2015 Woodward Dr.~~
Warren, MI 48091-3990

The Honorable Lesia Liss
State Representative
PO Box 30014
Lansing MI 48909-7514

April 8, 2011

Dear Representative Liss:

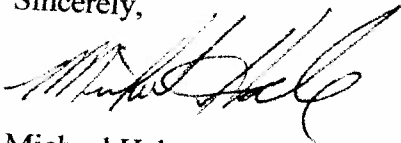
My name is Michael Hale and I am a parent in the Warren Consolidated School District. I am writing you today because I am counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the Governor's proposed \$470 per-pupil cut will create for Warren Consolidated Schools and our children. This cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil or about \$17 million for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That's a major DISINVESTMENT in education and it spells disaster for our kids.

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Sincerely,



Michael Hale


Warren, MI 48091-3990

April 8, 2011

Dear House of Representatives, Leisa Liss,

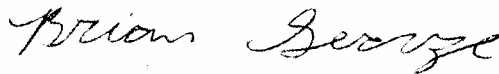
We are counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the Governor's proposed \$470 per-pupil cut will create for Warren Consolidated Schools and our children. This cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil or about \$17 million for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That's a major DISINVESTMENT in education and it spells disaster for our kids.

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Sincerely,



Brian George


Warren, MI 48093

4/11/11

March 18, 2011-03-18

Representative Lesia Liss
State Capitol
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514


Dear Representative Liss,

You and your colleagues are currently considering many proposals to reform our educational system, such as HB4306, appointment of Emergency Financial Managers, HB4152, and SB7. As a school employee in your District, I want to thank you for speaking up for the hard-working people of this state who make a difference for our children every day.

Thank you for continuing to oppose bills such as these that do not address the serious problems of adequate, fair, reliable school funding. Please continue to fight for bills and initiatives that will support smaller class sizes, healthy learning environments, and innovations for creative, twenty-first century teaching.

Michigan cannot fix the financial mistakes of the past by punishing working-class families and retirees who have always been the very heart of Michigan.

Sincerely,


Patricia Burgess

Tomiko Gumbleton - written testimony

From: "Weingarden" <dmmew@wideopenwest.com>
To: <tgumbleton@house.mi.gov>
Date: 4/26/2011 9:42 PM
Subject: written testimony

I am a School Social Worker for Utica Community Schools and have been so for the last 17 years. I am an Oakland County resident and both my children (now adults) were educated in public schools including K-12 in Berkley Schools. Both are graduates of Michigan State University.

I have never seen conditions so bad for students or staff in Utica. Students that I currently work with are affected greatly by economic conditions in Macomb County. We have seen a high rate of unemployment among parents, families moving in with grandparents or other relatives due to bankruptcy, home or job loss. Students are stressed as are parents and are less apt to get mental health services outside of school due to economic factors including loss of health insurance. As a result of budget cuts, 4 elementary schools were closed in UCS. A wonderful school in which I worked for all of my career, went from about 500 students to nearly 800. Many of the incoming students are low income and/or English as a second language students. Class sizes are larger. In spite of the increase in student population, my time in the building was reduced due to lay offs in the special education dept. We have seen an INCREASE in student misbehavior, bullying, suspension and general acting out since the school population increased. We have also seen an increase in referral for special education evaluations.

These are some of my issues of concern:

1. Mental health needs of students are NOT being adequately addressed by Utica due to budget limitations/lay offs of social workers. This impacts student learning and achievement
2. Resources in the community are more limited resulting in students not being adequately served by community mental health. This results in more seriously disturbed children and teens expected to attend public schools rather than participate in day treatment programs or other related services. Suicidal children/teens are often hospitalized only briefly and then return to school where they are expected to perform with minimal mental health support. In Macomb County including Utica, there has been an increase in attempted and completed suicides of teens.
3. Teachers are not provided adequate training in understanding the mental health needs of their students and are expected to deal with a much wider variety of behavior issues than in the past.
4. Educational demands (including MEAP testing which starts in third grade) have increased anxiety in children as students are expected to learn content at younger and younger grade levels than in the past. (I see this especially since I have experience as a parent and know what expectations were when my children attended public schools)
5. There has been a tremendous increase in the number of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder which has placed increased stress/demand on the special education services in Utica.

I would be more than happy to meet with any legislative committee to provide further information about my concerns.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative Liss,

We are counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the \$470 per-pupil cut will create for Warren Consolidated Schools. This cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates

between \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil or about \$17 million for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That's a major DISINVESTMENT in education that spells disaster for our kids.

The Governor believes that schools can save large amounts of money by cutting the cost of non-instructional services. As far as Warren Consolidated Schools is concerned, that's a false assumption. The district has already cut to the bare minimum. So an additional 10% won't make a difference.

If the governor's current budget plan is enacted, our schools will be forced to make large program cuts and increase class sizes, which will impact the educational lives of our students.

We cannot bring Michigan's economy back by lowering the quality of our educated workforce. The Governor's plan to reduce bus and School Aid funds to support community colleges and universities is a "shared sacrifice." Schools have already sacrificed a lot of money on the backs of our children - they are the future of our state.

Sincerely,
Sandra Newell
Teacher, Taxpayer, and Parent
[REDACTED]
Sterling Heights, MI 48310

4-1-2011

Dear Ms. Lesia Liss,

We are counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the Governor's proposed \$470 per-pupil cut will create for Warren Consolidated Schools and our children. This cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil or about \$17 million for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That's a major DISINVESTMENT in education and it spells disaster for our kids.

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Sincerely,

Dawn Jarman


Warren MI 

As a teacher in Warren Consolidated Schools, I am asking you to leave the K-12 Sch Fund alone.

The proposed cuts will devastate our school district. Our enrollment is 16,000 students of \$470 per pupil totals \$7.5 million or 5% of our annual budget. In addition, the federal stimulus money and other funds are not going to be replaced by Congress. This is an extra \$4.8 million to our budget. Thirdly, WCS will be forced to pay an additional \$4.9 million into the retirement fund. This totals \$17.2 million- more than 10% of our district's annual budget.

The impact will be felt by the children of Warren and throughout Michigan. We cannot

put the budget on the backs of our children, the future workforce of Michigan. Our children are not commodities. We need a solution that invests in education and prepares every child in Michigan for the 21st Century economy.

Keep the promise of Proposal A and the School Aid Fund for K-12 education. Increase per pupil spending by \$260 per pupil next year.

Lisa Pyrek

As a parents of two children in Michigan public schools, I urge you to represent my interests as a parent and urge your colleagues to leave the K-12 funding alone. My children's future depends on my representatives stepping up to the plate and fighting for me and the future of my children. The choice you make now will affect Michigan for the next 15 years. This is a poor short term solution. Education should not be punished.

Respectfully,

Rick Scholz
Warren Resident

April 1, 2011

Dear Representative Liss,

We are counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the Governor will create for Warren Consolidated Schools and our children. This new state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,1 for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That's a major C it spells disaster for our kids.

The Governor believes that schools can save large amounts of money instructional services. As far as Warren Consolidated is concerned, 1 district has already cut these costs to the bare minimum. So an addit the \$17 million loss.

If the governor's current budget plan is enacted, our schools have no program cuts and increase class sizes. These will definitely impact 1 students.

We cannot bring Michigan's economy back by lowering our investm Governor's plan to reduce business taxes and use K-12 School Aid fi colleges and universities is definitely not "shared sacrifice." Schools Any more will fall directly on the backs of our children - they are the

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Petty

Warren, Mi

April 1, 2011

Dear State Representative Liss:

We are counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the Governor create for Warren Consolidated Schools and our children. This cut, t state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,100 pe Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That s a major DISII spells disaster for our kids.

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We cannot bring Michigan s economy back by lowering our investment i Governor s plan to reduce business taxes and use K-12 School Aid func and universities is definitely not shared sacrifice. Schools have alre fall directly on the backs of our children they are the future of our s

Sincerely,

Mary Cwiertak and Jerome Cwiertak

WCS employee and Warren resident and MISD employee and Warren r

Dear Lesia Liss,

I am writing to my representatives today because of my overwhelming concern about the cuts that could effect education. Education is much too important to be cut by over \$400 per pupil. I know that the budget needs cutting but I also know that the money CAN come from other places. Not all are privileged to have the advantages afforded to some this was the purpose of public education when Thomas Jefferson was alive and it is still vital to our society. All should be afforded a quality education and cuts cannot be tolerated. In this day and age, we are devaluing our standing in the global scope when we devalue education and by cutting education we devalue the citizens of the United States. I urge you to please VOTE NO AGAINST ANY CUTS TO EDUCATION.

Sincerely a concerned voter and citizen,
Zoe-Ann Waters

Warren, MI

4/1/2011

Dear Ms. Liss:

I am an involved parent in the Avondale School District, and a teacher in the Warren Consolidated School District. I have been teaching for 15 years, and I've seen legislation come and go. The line needs to be our kids. The proposed \$470 per-pupil cut is simply not acceptable. Class sizes are large enough. I have between 28 and 38 students in my classes, and 29 desks. I am doing everything in my power to make sure every kid learns and grows in my class, and I am confident that my students and teachers at Deerfield Elementary are doing the same. We need to save public education!

This proposed cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates, add up to a total loss of about \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil or about \$17 million for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one

That's a major DISINVESTMENT in education and it spells disaster for our kids. It would just take a week, one day, or even one hour to see and feel just how important our kids are. I want all my kids to have access to a free and quality education. This idea is what our country is founded on!

The Governor believes that schools can save large amounts of money by cutting the cost of non-instructional services. As far as Warren Consolidated is concerned, that's a false assumption. Our district has already cut these costs to the bare minimum. So an additional 10% won't make a difference. It's a \$17 million loss.

The Avondale School District has made similar cuts. They closed the early middle school and made the cuts they needed to make to survive. AND, their test scores are still rising and AYP is not a problem. Avondale is a school that is working toward and achieving success, even in this difficult financial climate.

If the governor's current budget plan is enacted, our schools have no choice left except to make program cuts and increase class sizes. These will definitely impact the educational lives of our students. Please do not sacrifice the futures and the school experience and quality of our children. We cannot bring Michigan's economy back by lowering our investment in an educated workforce. The Governor's plan to reduce business taxes and use K-12 School Aid funds to support community colleges and universities is definitely not "shared sacrifice." Schools have already sacrificed a lot, and more will fall directly on the backs of our children - they are the future of our state.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Muma

[REDACTED]
Rochester Hills, MI [REDACTED]

Parent - Deerfield Elementary School (Avondale School District)

Teacher - Warren Mott High School (Warren Consolidated School District)

As a teacher of Clawson Public Schools, I am asking you to leave the K-12 School Aid Fund alone. The proposed cuts will devastate our school district. The cut of \$470 per pupil totals \$2 million. In addition, the federal stimulus money and other funds are not going to be replaced by Congress.

The impact will be felt by the children of Clawson and communities throughout Michigan. We cannot put the budget on the backs of our children, the future workforce of Michigan. Our children are not coming to school to be part of a budget cut. We need a solution that invests in education and prepares every child in Michigan for a 21st Century education.

As a teacher who works with over 400 children a week I can say without bias; this is a **bad deal** for our children. Keep the promise of Proposal A and the School Aid Fund for K-12 education. Increase per pupil to \$260 per pupil next school year.

David Pyrek

Warren mi

April 1, 2011

Dear Representative Liss,

We are counting on you to avert the financial chaos that the Governor's proposed \$470 per-pupil cut will create for Warren Consolidated Schools and our children. This cut, together with other cuts and new state mandates, add up to a total loss of between \$800 and \$1,100 per-pupil or about \$17 million for Warren Consolidated Schools in just one year. That's a major DISINVESTMENT in education and it spells disaster for our kids.

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If the governor

We cannot bring Michigan

Sincerely,

Donna Lambert's a false assumption. The district has already cut these costs to the bare minimum. So an additional 10% won't make a dent in the \$17 million loss. Our current budget plan is enacted, our schools have no choice left except to make large program cuts and increase class sizes. These will definitely impact the educational lives of our students. Our economy back by lowering our investment in an educated workforce. The Governor's plan to reduce business taxes and use K-12 School Aid funds to support community colleges and universities is definitely not "shared sacrifice." Schools have already sacrificed a lot. Any more will fall directly on the backs of our children - they are the future of our state.

Kurt + Joyce Limberg
Warren, MI

4/27/11

Plymouth Canton Schools pays teachers at the state average but has well above average test scores and academic performance while having a vast array of opportunities.

Why does are district get below average funding, have larger class sizes, and less education? Other schools have longer school years, more learning opportunities.

More homework is not the answer.

In Middle School we should start tracking kids into interests for high school.

We should be emphasizing careers and not college.

We need to figure out what kids are good at and what type of learner they are. Some kids can learn by someone explaining, others do better by doing it. Some can learn just from picking up a book. Some kids need more guidance than others.

We need to let the kids who excel move forward and the kids who struggle get additional help. We need to keep them in similar groups.

Kids need to feel like the teachers are listening to them. Teachers need smaller class sizes.

Kids who do not want to learn, maybe have social issues and need help or maybe an alternative way of learning.

We need to take advantage of having the 3 high schools next to each other to offer more diversity. 6 classes is not enough. We should have 8 classes for 1 ½ hours per class block scheduling.

We need some classes to be smaller and some to be larger. The U of M has some lecture halls with 500 kids. Why not have social studies teacher who teaches today's history to 500 kids? Two lectures and two smaller classes.

Putting more charter schools in Canton exacerbates the problem.

A Canton teacher makes \$66k compared to \$96k in Birmingham.

You can make teachers pay 20% of medical/dental but maybe give them a 5% raise to partially offset.

They should have some interest in how much their medical/dental is costing.

New teachers should be put on a defined contribution plan, not defined benefit so the schools do not have to be at the mercy of the stock market.

We need to look at using more on-line classes to save money and give the kids new ways of learning.

We need to partner more with local businesses for internships.

We need to give teachers more time and support to get their continuing education.

We need a more progressive state tax. 4.35% flat is a huge shift when the MBT is eliminated. This is a boon for partnerships many of which are services in Oakland County.

Why do Oakland County school districts get so much more money per pupil Proposal A gap stopped closing in 2001.

Why do we donate money to Detroit when other school districts do so much more with what they have?

Why are we taking from the poor to give to the rich? Everyone should get taxed but the rich should pay more as a percentage. This is their state and they have a huge interest in keeping things running smoothly.

Why does the Governor put his kids in private schools?

Where is the budget model from the Governor?

Why doesn't the state and government and department of education calculate bang per buck?

Venue	Fname	Lname	City	Testimony Format	
Canton	Anne	Wood-Alatalo	Plymouth	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Thomas	Donnelly	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Sarah	Kraft	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Jim	Amar	Plymouth	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Joanne	Lamar	Plymouth	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Martha	Toth	Belleville	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Sheila	Paton		Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Darrick	Rushing	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Shannon	McNutt	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Carol	Rosati	Canton	No	Entered Card into Record
Canton	Kelly	Villa	Belleville	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Saul	Park	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Jason	Kaye	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Angela	Brown	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Margaret	Collet	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Jolie	Valentine	Ann Arbor	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Jeanie	Derani	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Darrin	Silvester	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Aleisa	Pitt	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Reanna	Allinson	Canton	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Sherry	Frazier	Belleville	Yes	Verbal-Direct
Canton	Kathie	Orr	Canton	No	Entered Card into Record
Canton	Pam	Ansted Uller	Canton	No	Entered Card into Record
Canton	Marie	Everitt	Canton	No	Entered Card into Record